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PAGE 01 CARACA 12144 01 OF 02 181919Z
ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ARA-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	INRE-00	INR-01
	L-03	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIG-04
	PM-02	P-01	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01
	FMP-00	/038W					

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P 181919Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5527

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 12144

NOFORN

S/CT FOR REAP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, KPRP, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELA: 1992 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 338430

1. (U) THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THE EMBASSY'S 1992 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT FOR VENEZUELA. PARAGRAPHS 6-14 ARE KEYED TO THE SUB-HEADINGS (A THROUGH I) OF PARAGRAPH 5, REFTEL.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 CARACA 12144 01 OF 02 181919Z
OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND

2. (U) OVERALL, VENEZUELA EXPERIENCED IN 1992 FEW ACTS OF TERRORISM WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF REFTEL. THE PRINCIPAL EXCEPTION IS THE EMERGENCE OF A HITHERTO UNKNOWN GROUP WHICH CALLS ITSELF THE "BOLIVARIAN LIBERATION FORCES" ("FUERZAS BOLIVARIANAS DE LIBERACION" OR FBL). THE FBL HAS TAKEN CREDIT FOR THE SEPTEMBER 23, 1992 SHOOTING OF VENEZUELAN LABOR LEADER ANTONIO RIOS

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(WHO SURVIVED THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND IS RECUPERATING AT HIS HOME). THE TWO ALLEGED ASSAILANTS, ONE OF WHOM HAS ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE FBL AND HIS ROLE IN THE FAILED ASSASSINATION PLOT, REMAIN IN POLICE CUSTODY AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS HAVE COMMENCED (SEE CARACAS 10239 AND PREVIOUS). IN A COMMUNIQUE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FBL (CARACAS 10202) AND IN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW WITH "COMMANTE ZACARIAS," THE ALLEGED LEADER OF FBL (CARACAS 10559), THE GROUP THREATENED TO STRIKE AGAINST AND EXECUTE VARIOUS POLITICAL FIGURES CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION IF THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT MOVE TO PROSECUTE THESE INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR ALLEGED CRIMES AGAINST THE PUBLIC GOOD. ALTHOUGH THE INTERVIEW AND COMMUNIQUE EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT PEREZ AND ASSOCIATE THE FBL WITH THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS WHO LED THE FEBRUARY 4, 1992 COUP ATTEMPT, THE FBL'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE SEEMS TO BE TERRORISM/POLITICAL VIGILANTISM AIMED AT WELL-KNOWN FIGURES ACCUSED OF PUBLIC CORRUPTION. THE GROUP HAS ALSO TAKEN CREDIT FOR A SEPTEMBER 27 GRENADE ATTACK ON THE CARACAS HOME OF FORMER PRESIDENT JAIME

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CARACA 12144 01 OF 02 181919Z
LUSINCHI (CARACAS 10323) AND A NOVEMBER 11 ATTACK AGAINST AN EX-PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SECURITY, PEDRO CESAR IZQUEIL. IN THE NOVEMBER 11 INCIDENT, IZQUIEL, WHO IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS, WAS BEATEN AND STABBED TWICE BY TWO MEN (CARACAS 12005).

3. (C) ALTHOUGH THE FBL CLAIMS THAT IT WAS ESTABLISHED TEN YEARS AGO AND THAT IT HAS AN EXTENSIVE NATIONAL NETWORK, VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES DOUBT THAT IT REPRESENTS A LARGE ORGANIZATION. THERE IS ALSO CONSIDERABLE DOUBT IF THE RIOS, LUSINCHI, AND IZQUIEL ATTACKS WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE SAME GROUP (AND EVEN WHETHER COMMANDANTE ZACARIAS EXISTS).

4. (U) POLITICAL VIOLENCE HAS OFTEN ACCOMPANIED ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FAILED FEBRUARY 4, 1992 MILITARY REBELLION. MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATION -- TYPICALLY LED BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO PROTEST ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, TO SUPPORT THE JAILED LEADERS OF THE FEBRUARY COUP, AND/OR TO URGE THE EARLY DEPARTURE OF CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ FROM THE PRESIDENCY -- OFTEN DEGENERATE INTO VIOLENT CLASHES

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INVOLVING ROCK-THROWING, TIRE-BURNING, VANDALISM, AND SMALL ARMS FIRE. AS IN THE PAST, VIOLENCE AND INSECURITY PLAGUE LONG STRETCHES OF THE COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN BORDER. COLOMBIAN GUERRILLAS HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER AND VENTURED INTO VENEZUELA AND THERE HAVE BEEN SMALL FIRE FIGHTS BETWEEN ALLEGED COLOMBIAN GUERRILLAS AND VENEZUELAN MILITARY FRONTIER POSTS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 CARACA 12144 01 OF 02 181919Z
5. (S) NOFORN. MORE TRADITIONAL, SUBVERSIVE GROUPS SUCH AS THE "BANDERA ROJA," "TERCER CAMINO," AND "VENCEREMOS" CONTINUE TO EXIST AND REMAIN UNDER CLOSE MONITORING BY THE GOV (CARACAS 679). THESE GROUPS WERE RELATIVELY INACTIVE IN TERMS OF PARTICIPATION IN INDIVIDUAL ACTS OF VIOLENT TERRORISM DURING THE YEAR, ALTHOUGH IT IS BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE INVOLVED IN SOME OF THE CLASHES AND CONFRONTATIONS WHICH ACCOMPANIED VARIOUS ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS. IN AN OCTOBER PRESS INTERVIEW, THE ALLEGED SECRETARY GENERAL OF BANDERA ROJA DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE RIOS' ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND DISAVOWED TERRORISM, ALTHOUGH HE PREDICTED A "CIVIC-MILITARY INSURRECTION"

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PAGE 01 CARACA 12144 02 OF 02 181920Z
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PM-02 P-01 SSO-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 USSS-00 ASDS-01
FMP-00 /038W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5528

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 12144

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WOULD SOON TOPPLE THE PEREZ GOVERNMENT (CARACAS 10747).

POST RESPONSES

6. (U) HOST GOVERNMENT PROSECUTIONS (QUESTION A):
THE GOV HAS BEGUN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE TWO
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SECRET

PAGE 02 CARACA 12144 02 OF 02 181920Z
ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE FBL ACCUSED OF SHOOTING LABOR
LEADER ANTONIO RIOS. (SEE PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE).

7. (U) EXTRADITIONS (QUESTION B): NONE.

8. (U) IMPEDIMENTS TO PROSECUTION/EXTRADITION
(QUESTION C): NONE

9. (U) OTHER RESPONSES (QUESTION D): NONE OF
SIGNIFICANCE. PUBLIC FIGURES PERIODICALLY DECRY
TERRORISM AND LAMENT THE DANGER OF THE
"COLOMBIANIZATION" OF THEIR COUNTRY. IN THE AFTERMATH
OF THE RIOS' SHOOTING THE GOV DID ANNOUNCE THE
REASSIGNMENT OF SEVERAL HUNDRED POLICEMEN TO SECURITY
DETAILS TO PROTECT PUBLIC FIGURES WHO WERE POTENTIAL
TERRORIST TARGETS.

10. (U) MAJOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS (QUESTION E):

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WE HEAR OCCASIONALLY THAT GOV FORCES ARE ENGAGED IN ANTI-GUERRILLA PATROLS, ESPECIALLY NEAR THE COLOMBIAN BORDER, BUT CONTACTS WITH THE GUERRILLAS ARE RARE. GOV SECURITY/INTELLIGENCE FORCES KEEP THE SMALL DOMESTIC "GUERRILLA" ORGANIZATIONS UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATION. THE GOV HAS NOT LAUNCHED ANY INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TERRORIST INITIATIVES, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. EFFORTS, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE UNSC AGAINST IRAQ AND LIBYA.

11. (U) GOV SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM (QUESTION F): NONE.

12. (U) GOV STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF
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SECRET

PAGE 03 CARACA 12144 02 OF 02 181920Z
TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRY (QUESTION G): NONE

13. (U) SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN GOV ATTITUDE TOWARD
TERRORISM (QUESTION H): NONE

14. (U) UNSC RESOLUTION ON LIBYA (QUESTION I): THE
GOV HAS FULLY COMPLIED WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
REGARDING LIBYA, INCLUDING THE RESOLUTION REQUIRING
MEMBER STATES TO REDUCE THE LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE
(SEE CARACAS 5092). AS A SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER,
VENEZUELA VOTED FOR THESE RESOLUTIONS. SKOL

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